

REMARKS

This is in response to the Official Action mailed January 27, 2003 for the above-captioned application. Applicants request an extension of time sufficient to make this paper timely. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee for this extension to Deposit Account 07-0862.

The Examiner rejected the claims under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph and made some additional objections to the claims. The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended in a way which is believed to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-13, 20 and 21 as anticipated by US Patent No. 6,136,441 of MacGregor et al. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate a limitation from claim 14, namely that the substrate includes an impact modifier. Applicants respectfully submit that MacGregor does not disclose this limitation and that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated.

As the Examiner pointed out in the rejection of claim 14 as obvious over MacGregor, MacGregor does disclose the use of impact modifiers, and even refers to the use of an impact modifier in a "substrate." This terminology is misleading, however, because the word substrate is used in the present application to refer to a different layer than that which is referred to as a substrate in the MacGregor. Specifically, as reflected at Col. 1, lines 20-30, MacGregor uses the term "surface film" to describe a film that is placed in the mold, and the terms "substrate" or "base" to describe the thermoplastic resin which is "injection molded to the exposed surface or surfaces of the film." In contrast, the present application uses the term "substrate" to describe the component that MacGregor calls the "surface film."


Because of this difference in terminology, for MacGregor to teach that which is claimed in claim 1, as amended, MacGregor would have to teach the addition of an impact modifier to the surface film. Such a teaching is not found in the reference, which teaches only the addition of an impact modifier to the injection molded base resin.

It should further be noted that the claims, as amended, are not obvious over MacGregor. There is no suggestion in the reference to put an impact modifier in the surface film, since

characteristics of impact and stiffness would presumably be provided by the bulk resin rather than a thin surface coating.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are now in form for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marina T. Larson", is written over a horizontal line.

Marina T. Larson Ph.D.

PTO Reg. No. 32,038

Attorney for Applicant

(970) 468-6600